2013 Iowa Chapter Trapshoot

The Iowa Chapter held its first trapshoot in Cedar Rapids, IA 6/28-6/30. Obviously, Kim forgot lesson number one. **HOLD THE GUN FIRMLY TO YOUR SHOULDER!**

The Iowa Chapter was awarded a spot on the National PVA Trapshoot Tour for 2014. The event will take place 6/27-6/29/14 at Otter Creek Sportsmen’s Club in Cedar Rapids, IA. This will be the last National Tour event for FY 2014 and will include the year end banquet and awards. We are expecting 60-70 wheelchair shooters plus anyone else who would like to join in! **This event is open to all.** (See more pictures on page 8.)
A Message From The President
Jon R. Schneider

IOWA VETERANS HELPED BY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Since June 21, 2013 to August 21, 2013, Veterans at the Iowa Veterans Home (IVH), a State run home, as well as the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Adel have been awarded nearly 26 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Thanks should goes out to U.S Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki, Mr. David G. Worley, Commandant, Iowa Veterans Home and the newly appointed Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert King.

On June 21, 2013 the VA awarded a grant in the amount of $919,612 for 100 percent of allowable costs associated with the expansion of the Iowa Cemetery in Adel, IA. The grant covers the cost of construction of a columbaria, irrigation system improvements, pump house, as well as landscaping and supporting infrastructure.

On June 10,2013, this office was informed that the U.S. Department of Affairs (VA) awarded a grant totaling $23,840,617 to the State of Iowa. The grant is for Federal assistance toward the cost to renovate the Dack and Malloy Buildings at the State Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

On June 8, 2013, this office received a letter from the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs having awarded a final grant totaling $529,584 for Federal assistance toward the cost to upgrade two generators and construct a transportation facility at the State Veterans Home in Marshalltown, IA.

And finally, on August 12, 2013, we received communications from Secretary Shinseki notifying the Commandant, Iowa Veterans Home David G. Worley, that the VA has awarded a final grant totaling $614,995 to the State of Iowa to assist toward the cost to renovate the boilers and steam distribution system at the State Veterans Home.

We want to thanks all parties associated with these efforts to improve the lives of Iowa Veterans!

jrs

ATTENTION

1. Please check out our new and improved web page! Many items of interest will be posted frequently. This will bring you news about the chapter between newsletters. It is a work in progress, but you will find it very interesting and informative.
   www.iowapva.org.

2. Please provide us with your email address. We would like to provide you your newsletter and other information electronically. This will make it easier for you and less expensive for us.
This year we traveled to Long Beach, California for our National Board of Directors’ meeting. The weather was in the 70’s and there was always a nice cool breeze off the ocean which made it a nice place to be this time of the year. Of course, most of my time was spent in the board room. The National Board of Directors met for four days making decisions for Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The meeting started out with a speech from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erick K Shinseki. Mr. Shinseki addressed several issues of importance to our membership, but focused extensively on the VA claims backlog. This issue is at the forefront for the Secretary and President Obama. The claims backlog is being addressed through new technology which speeds up the claims process. The backlog has been reduced by hundreds of thousands, and the Secretary has a goal of 2017 to eliminate undecided claims in the VA system.

Business went on with the board asking questions of the Executive Committee and the National Staff. The board is mailed their reports before we arrive at the meeting which gives the Board of Directors the chance to prepare to ask questions. This makes the meeting go much faster. After the reports, the Directors made decisions on the resolutions that were submitted.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America fiscal year will change to July 1st to June 30th. Because of this change there was a resolution to change the National Board of Directors term to match the fiscal year. This extended the current term by nine months.

The resolutions that passed this year:

13-A-1 Coinciding BOD Member Terms to Fiscal Years
13-A-2 Chapter Web Site Award
13-A-7 Legislative Representative per Chapter
13-A-8 SCI/D Chief Consultant Realignment
13-A-9 Outstanding Site Visit Recommendations
13-A-10 Registration for TSA’s Services
13-A-0-1 VA Prosthetics Threshold

The Board moved on to the approval of the budget. There were (as always) plenty of questions and decisions to change some of the line items in the budget. This budget was tighter than our previous budget but in the end we were able to give twenty five thousand more dollars a year to the chapters. This is a great help, but the chapter will have to do a lot of fundraising to keep up with all the expenses.

DISCLAIMER

Back Talk and the Iowa Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services advertised. We are pleased that we can offer you information about products and services that are available, but we strongly urge you to investigate any company or product yourself prior to using such services or products.

Back Talk is a publication of the Iowa PVA and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. Any opinions expressed in any article is that of the author and may not reflect the beliefs or policies of the Iowa Chapter.

Thank you.
Before I get started on the subject of this article I just want to provide a little trivia regarding Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) for those who do not know too much about PVA. For over 65 years, Paralyzed Veterans of America has changed lives and helped build brighter futures for our seriously injured veterans, empowering them to achieve the things they served our country for, such as freedom and independence. Who started this, no one else but a group of service members who came home from World War II with spinal cord injuries. Yes, they came back to a grateful nation, but to a world with no solution to the challenges they had to face. They made a decision not just to live, but to live with dignity as contributors to society. It was these men and women who created Paralyzed Veterans of America, an organization dedicated to veteran’s service, medical research and civil rights for people with disabilities. We are disabled veteran’s working for disabled veterans.

PVA was originally founded in 1946 and Chartered by Congress to provide specialized representation to those veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease (SCI/D). Today, PVA continues to build, grow and help all veterans and their families with disabilities in order to live a full and productive life with the challenges they face. Over the years PVA’s representation has increased by representing those veteran’s diagnosed not only with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Amyotrophic Lateral Disease (ALS-Lou Gehrigs Disease), Parkinson’s or any other disability which may influence the neurological system and it did not stop there. PVA represents all veterans or their dependents who call us for assistance for any condition.

We are a non-profit organization and we currently represent over 53,000 veterans throughout the United States and assist them in adjudicating claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for compensation, pension, medical care/expenses, nursing home and rehabilitative services, prosthetic and pharmaceutical needs, educational, employment, housing and dependency benefits.

Whenever Paralyzed Veterans of America assists a veteran or a dependent with any Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims or VA Medical Center/Clinic issues this is called representation. In order for us to represent a veteran(s) and/or their dependent(s) they have to sign a VA Form 21-22 (Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimants Representative). This form is what allows a Certified National Service Officer, who has been accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to assist you with claims.

With this representation comes the responsibility of making sure that when a claim is filed, we have to use our experience and be reasonably sure that we can prevail in getting the claim granted even if there may be some hurdles getting the information we need.

PVA believes that quality representation of claimants should not be sacrificed by attempting to file a claim for benefits that have no merit. Any veteran can file a claim but it is whether or not there is evidence to support the claim. An example of this is a veteran who wants to file a claim for “Agent Orange (AO)”. As most of you know AO is not a disability in itself, but you can have a disability as a result of exposure to AO and there is a criteria that has to be met for such disabilities. If a veteran calls my office, it is my responsibility as a certified NSO to ask questions. Let’s say during our conversation the veteran says he wants to file a claim for AO and he says he has prostate cancer. Since this is a known presumptive condition that can be caused by AO exposure I now have to ask more questions such as where did he serve? In order to prevail in such a claim a veteran would need to have served in an area where AO was sprayed. Let’s say the veteran was in Vietnam, it is now a given and the veteran would be entitled to service connection for the condition. Now let’s say we are addressing the same issue but instead the veteran served in the Philippines. That claim would have no leverage and the NSO representing you should advise you of this and state they could not reasonably file the claim, knowing their creditability as a PVA NSO would be on the line.

That is the purpose of having good representation. Defending a meritless or under developed claim strains our credibility as an NSO. A PVA National Service Officer is responsible for determining the feasibility of the claim, but if the NSO determines that filing such a claim is impractical or inappropriate due to the facts and/or law, they should advise you of this. Filing such a claim can waste your time, their time and the VA’s time knowing in the end it will be denied. Even if we do assist a veteran or their dependent with filing a claim with the VA there is still no guarantee the VA will grant it. Without having all the facts and evidence to support the claim we would not be doing you justice.

Another important issue is that as your representative and in order for us to represent you accordingly it is important for us to be able to contact you. If we do not have accurate information such as your address, phone number(s) and change in medical facilities where you are being treated, it can affect the representation we provide. I am sure you understand the importance of contacting us if there are any changes.

I am sure you already know that the benefits you receive, whether it is compensation, non-service connected pension or just the fact you receive medical, pharmaceutical or prosthetic care at a VA Medical Facility, depends on your military service, when you served on active duty, whether or not your disabilities were incurred on active duty or whether they were incurred after discharge. Going over your files accurately is important for us so we can ensure we are filing the right claims and you are receiving all the benefits you may be entitled to.

If you have any questions regarding this issue or any benefit issue, please contact your local National Service Office at 515-323-7544 or 1-800-795-3602.
From the Desk of the Executive Director

Kim Gould

Hospital Liaison Officer Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America's core values and guiding policies revolve around the principle that all veterans are entitled to quality health care by virtue of their service. This can only be ensured by remaining engaged with VA leaders, clinicians, nurses, therapists, social workers, and the veterans themselves. That is why PVA requires that each chapter maintain a Hospital Liaison Officer Program that maintains a relationship with VA medical centers or other institutions where our members receive health care.

The Iowa Chapter has two Hospital Liaison Officers (HLO) appointed by President Jon Schneider. These HLOs are Kenny Lloyd and myself. HLOs participate in a monthly site visit process where one (or both of us) meet with the SCI/D clinic teams at both the Iowa City and Des Moines VA Medical Centers. The site visits serve as a communication of any issues that the clinics may be experiencing as well as gives the HLO an opportunity to speak for the patients and members who may be having a problem. The chapter HLO Program can only function properly if there are cooperative and coordinated efforts with the local National Service Officer (NSO).

Recently, as a HLO, I have encountered problems specific to the treatment, care, and unfulfilled prosthetics needs of individual veterans. In a perfect world, I would be able to engage the help of the local NSO, Andrew Bernstrom, to address these problems and fight for all of the benefits our members have coming to them. In order to accomplish this however, our NSO office NEEDS to hold the veterans power of attorney (POA). There seems to be some confusion on just what this type of POA entails. This is not a financial or medical POA. This type of POA only gives the NSO access to the veterans medical records, gives the providers at the VA permission to discuss treatment needs, prosthetic needs, etc., and allows the NSO to access the information necessary to file claims and advocate for VA benefits on behalf of the veteran. You can file your POA with any National Service Officer with any of the Veterans Service Organizations, but I would strongly urge veterans who suffer from spinal cord injury or disease to file with their local PVA National Service Officer. PVA has spent the past 67 years dealing with spinal cord issues and is the expert in the treatment and care of these veterans.

With all of that being said, I encourage you to:

1. Contact the local National Service Office at 515-323-7544 to get the specifics on having them hold your POA.

2. Once your POA is in place, contact the local National Service Office and make sure you are receiving all of the benefits you have coming to you!

3. If you are having any problems with care, treatment, prosthetics, etc. contact me at 515-669-8746 or Kenny Lloyd at 641-486-2564.

Kim

SUPPORT THE IOWA PVA

The Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members. Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America (Iowa PVA)
3703 1/2 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

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Adaptive Sports Iowa

I just wanted to let everyone know that we added bowling to our list of activities. It kicked off in April and will continue to be the second Tuesday of every month from 6pm to 8 pm at Warrior Lanes in Waukee Iowa.

Mark Houseman
Veteran Outreach
Adaptive Sports Iowa
1421 S. Bell Avenue #104
Ames, Iowa 50010
C (515) 707-3082

Check out their web and Facebook pages for more information and sporting opportunities.

www.adaptivesportsiowa.org
http://www.adaptivesportsiowa.org/Veterans.aspx
https://www.facebook.com/VeteranAdaptiveSportsIowa
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A year ago, I wrote an article about Lonn and Teddy. I knew the minute they met, that it was a match made in heaven. I received this letter from “Teddy” on August 10. One year from the day they were united. Kim

Until a year ago, I lived somewhere where I spent almost everyday outside and by myself. I was left in a kennel alone for five days at a time and had no friends to talk to or play with. Because my family could no longer provide for me, they gave me away in hopes for a better life. One day, a very nice lady picked me up and off I was. Her name was Kim. She was my rescuer, and I would love her forever for that. Would she be the mommy I always wanted? Well, we took a long trip that day, and I spent all of that time wondering where I was gonna go. Late that night, we arrived somewhere and this funny looking guy in a wheelchair came outside. He had some friends he brought with him. His name was Lonn, and friends’ names were Phyllis, LJ, and Miranda. Little did I know, their names would soon be daddy, mommy, bubba, and sissy. But for now, I was scared, and I didn't know any of these people. They gave me a quick bath, and it was time for bed. They put me in a kennel that night, but I was so tired, I didn't care. Within the next couple of days, I saw a doctor just for me, and they said I was a healthy boy, so back to the strange house I went.

Since then, I have learned to behave when mommy and daddy say to, and I have learned to do things that my daddy cannot do for himself since he is in a chair for the rest of his life. My daddy and I go on walks everyday together so I can stay healthy and we can have bonding time. He doesn't dwell on the sad, but relies on the happy life we all have together to survive. Over the last year, I have realized that the people I live with didn't just save me, but they are my forever family. Presently, although I love my mommy and sissy to pieces, my daddy and I are a team. As for myself? I am a nationally registered service dog.

Thanks for bringing me here, Kim. You're the best!

Love, Teddy Cunningham

Our 2013 2nd Annual Golf Tournament was another success. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported IPVA. We look forward to next year!!
2013 Chapter Trapshoot

IPVA Sports Directors David Graham handed out all of the awards. Pictured clockwise:

Ken Buchholz-Wisconsin PVA
R.G. Prucha - Otter Creek Sportsmens Club
Kenny Lloyd - Iowa PVA
Tom “Ivanhoe” Ritchie—Mid America PVA
Kim Gould - Iowa PVA

Another year of great fun at the Veterans Parade at the Iowa State Fair!!
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
IOWA CHAPTER

LIFE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE:________________
NAME:_________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:_______________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP:__________________________________________________
HOME PHONE:___________________________ WORK PHONE:__________________________
CELL PHONE:____________________________ EMAIL ADDRESS:_________________________

Please check any of the following volunteer activities that you may be interested in:

_______ Sports Programs
_______ Family Time Activities
_______ VAMC Programs
_______ Fund Raising Activities
_______ Public Relations Events
_______ Other (please detail in comments section)

COMMENTS:_______________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Lifetime Associate Membership Fee: $75.00

Please return this application and payment to the Iowa PVA at the following address:

Iowa PVA
3703 1/2 Douglas Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310-5347
(515-277-4782)

Associate Member Signature:_______________________________________________________
Cookbooks

The cookbooks have arrived and are going like hotcakes!!!!!! With every donation of at least $20.00, you will receive a free cookbook. Please send your donation directly to our office at:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America
3703 1/2 Douglas Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310

Associate Membership Drive

Please consider becoming an Associate Member of Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America. Simply fill out the Associate Membership Application found on Page 10 of this issue and mail it with a check for $75.00 to our office. Applicants for Associate Membership will receive a free cookbook and a gift card to be redeemed for one pie at Village Inn.

Be sure to include the address you would like your gifts sent to.
Thank you!!!!!!!
### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>9/4 -</td>
<td>Des Moines VAVS Meeting at the IPVA Office - 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>9/9 - 9/13</td>
<td>Veterans TEE Tournament in Iowa City, IA</td>
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<td>9/10 -</td>
<td>Iowa Veterans Council Meeting at the IPVA Office - 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>9/12 -</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC</td>
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<td>9/18 -</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting and Election at the IPVA Office - 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19 -</td>
<td>VAVS Meeting at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown - 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td><em>Summit 2013</em> in Orlando, FL</td>
<td>IPVA Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2 -</td>
<td>Hospital Liaison Site Visit at the Des Moines VAMC - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Des Moines VA CLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/10 -</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet</strong> - SEE PAGE 16</td>
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<td>10/12 -</td>
<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17 -</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA Office - 11:00 a.m.</td>
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- 888-909-4782  
- 515-277-8165—Fax

iowapva1@yahoo.com  
iowapvakim@yahoo.com  
iowapvajaz@yahoo.com

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Paralyzed Veterans  
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Wheelchair Basketball

Adaptive Sports Iowa continues to host weekly wheelchair Basketball pickup games in Ankeny. The games are held at the First Family Church located at 317 SE Magazine Road. The facility is reserved from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday night. Adaptive Sports Iowa will have six sports chairs on site. There is no cost to participate. Come out and enjoy the fun.

UnityPoint Hospice Partners with We Honor Veterans

We Honor Veterans is a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) that has collaborated with the Department of VA, state hospice organizations, Hospice-Veteran Partnerships and VA facilities to recognize the unique needs of America’s veterans and their families during care at end of life. UnityPoint Hospice – Des Moines has partnered with We Honor Veterans to promote a high level of commitment in providing and improving care for veterans at end of life.

UnityPoint Hospice – Des Moines has implemented a Military History History Checklist to identify patients who are/were in the armed services. By identifying those patients we are able to better serve their needs and provide additional support they otherwise would have missed. We are developing a volunteer Vet to Vet program that utilizes other veterans or current military men and women to help support our veteran patients. We also offer continuing education for hospice staff on veteran issues at end of life.

UnityPoint Hospice provides care for patients who are believed to be within the last six months of their life. It does not prolong life nor hasten death, but focuses on creating a life of comfort, dignity and peace for people in the final stages of life. Hospice addresses the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of every patient while also providing support for the entire family, even following death.

A few of the services provided in hospice care include:

- Pain and symptom management
- Psychosocial care
- Spiritual care
- Home care and inpatient care
- Equipment
- Medication
- Respite care
- Bereavement support
- Volunteer support
- Complimentary therapy – music, massage, pet

Hospice care at UnityPoint is a holistic care approach that relies on several medical professionals who deliver the highest quality of care for patients and families. The hospice team includes a medical director, nurse, social worker, aide, pharmacist, chaplain, volunteers and others. They always respect the values and wishes of the patient and family. This team will be with you every step of the way to make sure you are supported and cared for during the end-of-life experience. Hospice is not about giving up hope; it is about doing everything possible to live life to its full capacity.

To learn more about UnityPoint Hospice – Des Moines’s partnership with We Honor Veterans and how we can better serve you, please call Mary at 515.205.4410 or Cindy at 515.557.3138 or visit [https://www.unitypoint.org/homecare](https://www.unitypoint.org/homecare)
Paralyzed Veterans of America's (PVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives. This goal has been addressed through a wide variety of activities, including support of programs designed to provide education and training. PVA established an Educational Scholarship Program to assist PVA members and their immediate families in gaining a post-secondary education. Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients.

**Full-Time Student Award Winners - $1,000 each**

Samuel McCauley (College of Charleston – Honors College)  
Son of Joel McCauley – Southeastern Chapter

Miranda Cunningham (Blackhawk Community College)  
Daughter of Lonn Cunningham – Iowa Chapter

David Ethridge (Kennesaw State University)  
Son of Thomas Hall – Southeastern Chapter

Taleah Foster (North Carolina Central University)  
Daughter of Booker Foster – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Kaimana Hasenyager (Oklahoma Baptist University)  
Son of Melvin Hasenyager – Lone Star Chapter

Jordyn Murphy (George Washington University)  
Daughter of Scott Murphy – New England Chapter

Katherine Ness (University of Wisconsin - Madison)  
Daughter of Kenneth Ness – Wisconsin Chapter

Brianna Phipps (University of North Carolina at Wilmington)  
Daughter of Richard Phipps – Southeastern Chapter

Devin Reaux (Texas Women’s University)  
Daughter of Brian Reaux – Lone Star Chapter

Kathryn Shepard (Grace Bible College)  
Daughter of Jeffrey Shepard – Mid-America Chapter

Xavier Williams (University of South Alabama)  
Son of LaKesha Watts – Member At Large

Kevin Bair (Florida International University)  
PVA Member – Arizona Chapter

Ian Brown (Cooper Medical School of Rowan University)  
PVA Member – Member At Large

Miah Crockett (Sonoma State University)  
Daughter of George Crockett, Jr. – Cal-Diego Chapter

William Ethridge (Georgia Institute of Technology)  
Son of Thomas Hall – Southeastern Chapter

John Kazanjian (Purdue University)  
Son of Phillip Kazanjian – California Chapter

Barbara Prescott (University at Buffalo, State University of New York)  
Daughter of Drew Prescott – New England Chapter

Marissa Spencer (College of William & Mary)  
Daughter of Timmy Spencer – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Jeremiah Wickersheim (University of Wisconsin – Platteville)  
Son of Gary Wickersheim – Wisconsin Chapter

Victoria Spencer (Christopher Newport University)  
Daughter of Timmy Spencer – Mid Atlantic Chapter
Are you moving???

Don’t forget to notify the office of your new address. If you are a PVA member, we will let National PVA and PN PARAPLEGIA NEWS know where you are moving to, so you won’t miss a single issue.

Call us at 888-909-4782.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America would like to invite you to their Annual Dinner Meeting and Awards Banquet on Friday evening:

October 11, 2013
at the Ramada Tropics Resort & Conference Center
at I35/80 and Merle Hay Road in Des Moines, IA

4:30 p.m. Bingo
5:30 p.m. Social Hour and Music
6:30 p.m. Dinner
Awards will be presented following dinner

Please RSVP to the Iowa PVA office by Close of Business on Friday, September 20, 2013 at 515-277-4782 or iowapvakim@yahoo.com or iowapvajaz@yahoo.com

(Dress is Business Casual)